

## **Gettysburg Borough Tree Commission**

**Subject:** Minutes of August 11, 2021, Tree Commission Meeting

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Tree Commission of the Borough of Gettysburg was held at Borough offices at 7:00 PM, August 10, 2021. David Rice chaired the meeting. Commission member Martin Jolin, Borough representative Robbie Harbaugh, and guests Trevor Redding and Susan Naugle also attended.

Robbie reported that Cumberland Valley Tree Service had taken down the oak at 49 W. Broadway. The Borough had done some pruning on trees that needed some containment on Middle Street and York Street. Robbie reported that trees in the second block of Seminary Avenue were also in need of pruning.

There are three spots along the Steinwehr Ave in the Business Improvement District where there are tree grates but no trees. Susan Naugle will confer with Judy Butterfield, the Borough's contact person to the Steinwehr BID, to see if that organization would replace those trees.

Trevor noted that the Borough has some very nice ash trees. He thought the emerald ash borer might run its course in a couple of years, and that it would be worthwhile for the Borough to do annual treatments on its ashes in the meantime. Treatment is done in the springtime and generally costs \$10-\$14 per inch of trunk diameter. That is work that Trevor can do so he will provide a quote to the Borough for work that would be done next spring after he has scouted the Borough for additional ashes.

Marty noted that, although they are not Borough trees, the Rite-Aid has a number of ashes that are struggling. Since they would have been planted in accordance with the store's land development plan, it was felt that Rite-Aid ought to be responsible for replacement of those trees.

There are also some oaks that are struggling on Hay Street. It is believed that the oak decline may be owing to Anthracnose.

Marty will move the tree planting forward at St. James. He will confer further with Tara Baugher about species since it was decided that Ginkgoes were not a good choice for that site. Freedom Landscape had provided a quote for \$1665 for five trees. Having them do the work was approved, but the final bill will be different because the species will change and there is a sixth tree that is needed. Trevor also noted that if it is decided to plant crepe myrtles, it is better to do so in the springtime.

Trevor recommended that the Borough be thinking about possible scenarios if the spotted lanternfly shows up as can probably be expected. It is really a pretty nasty pest. There are low risk pesticides available. They can be sprayed or applied as trunk collars.

There was a discussion at the end of the meeting about attractive species the Borough might consider. Marty recommended redbud. Trevor said that Rising Sun is a cultivar with attractive foliage. The group also agreed that serviceberries were an attractive and underutilized

tree. And after the meeting, the sweetbay magnolia outside the Borough's offices was noted and admired.

The next meeting is scheduled for October. The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

David Rice